

... helping students with disabilities achieve their full potential.

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum

TESTIMONIALS FROM PREVIOUS DELEGATES:

"I met other young people with disabilities and we immediately understood each other."

"It made me proud of who I am...I feel better about my self...I can be a leader...I am glad I am a MYLF alumni delegate."

"MYLF was a fantastic experience that I will never forget"

"I learned more about leadership skills and to be a part of a disability culture"

"I was able to talk more."

"I learned that even if you are disabled you can do anything"

"We really did share our experiences with each other and learn from each other."

"I liked the speaker on disability culture. I never realized there was such a thing."

HOW TO APPLY

Download an application at:

www.gcd.oa.mo.gov. Once you have completed the application, please send to:

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum
Governor's Council on Disability
PO Box 1668
Jefferson City, MO 65102 – 1668

Or Fax to: 573-526-4109

Deadline for submitting application and additional information can be found by visiting our website

www.gcd.oa.mo.gov

For more information, contact:

***Linda Baker at 800-877-8249 or
email: Linda.Baker@oa.mo.gov***

Other partners are: Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities and Missouri Centers for Independent Living.



A special thank you goes to the Independent Living Resource Center of Jefferson City for their support.



Missouri Youth Leadership Forum

*For students with
Disabilities*

MISSOURI YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

The Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) is a unique career leadership-training program for sophomore, junior, and senior high students with disabilities. Youth delegates are selected from their local communities to cultivate leadership, citizenship, and social skills.

The four-day program is held during the summer at the University of Missouri in Columbia at Johnston Hall, which provides accessible residential accommodations.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE MYLF?

- Develop leadership skills to ensure that all youth with disabilities will obtain their full potential.
- Promote inclusion in all aspects of society: nation, state, and local levels.
- Participate in policymaking or practices that affect young people with disabilities.

WHY IS MYLF ONLY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES?

It is important for students with disabilities to meet other students who are dealing with similar issues. Through the course of four days, students build pride and self-esteem and learn from each other. In a sense, they build a supporting community.

The key success to the MYLF is Leadership by example! As part of the program, students meet successful adults with disabilities who share similar challenges. This framework provides an atmosphere of encouragement, helping youth realize their ability and pursue meaningful employment to become contributing members of society.

HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED?

Youths are selected through statewide competition that seeks students with disabilities who have leadership potential. Each applicant submits a standard form, essay and three names for references.

The student delegates will represent a cross section of

Missouri in terms of geography, gender, economic status, ethnicity, and different types of disabilities.

WHAT IS THE AGENDA?

1. Leadership principles and their application.
2. The disability experience and resource sharing.
3. Assistive technology and resources.
4. The development and achievement of career goals and independent living.
5. Developing advocacy skills.

WHAT IS THE COST?

This program is FREE OF CHARGE to the student delegate.

If you would like to help defray the cost of this program, please make your tax-deductible donation to MYLF and mail to:

Governor's Council on Disability
301 West High Street, Suite 250-A
PO Box 1668
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1668